

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data managing apparatus for accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which fixed data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the apparatus comprising:

connecting means for connecting the recording medium via a network to a server system on the Internet;

storage control means for storing changing data, related to the fixed data and read from said server system, in said first storage area in the first access method; and

reading means for reading the fixed data corresponding to the changing data in the second access method from said second storage area.

2. A data managing apparatus for accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which contents data is already stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the apparatus comprising:

storage control means for storing retrieval data related to the contents data in said first storage area in the first access method; and

reading means the contents data corresponding to the retrieval data from said second storage area in the second access method.

3. A data managing apparatus for accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which detailed data is

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stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the apparatus comprising:

storage control means for storing in said first storage area index data, related to the detailed data, in the first access method; and

5 reading means for reading the detailed data corresponding to the index data from said second storage area in the second access method.

4. A data managing apparatus for accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which uncompressed high-definition data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the apparatus comprising:

storage control means for storing in said first storage area compressed data, related to the high quality data, in the first access method; and

15 reading means for reading the high quality data, corresponding to the compressed data, in the second access method from said second storage area.

5. A data managing apparatus for accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which high-definition data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the apparatus comprising:

storage control means for storing in said first storage area in the first access method thumbnail data related to the high-definition image data and having a reduced amount of information; and

reading means for reading the high-definition image data

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corresponding to the thumbnail data from said second storage area in the second access method.

6. The data managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 said storage control means further stores security information in the recording medium in said first storage area.

7. The data managing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
the security information in the recording medium comprises a personal
10 authentication code and information for inhibiting copying data stored in the recording medium.

8. The data managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said storage control means stores security information for the contents data
15 in said first storage area.

9. The data managing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
the security information for the contents data comprises information for
inhibiting copying the contents stored in the recording medium.

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10. The data managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said first storage area comprises a static storage area and said second
storage area comprises a dynamic storage area.

25 11. A data managing method of accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which fixed data is stored in a

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second access method different from the first access method, the method comprising:

connecting the recording medium to a server system on the Internet via a network;

5 storing changing data, related to the fixed data and read from the server system, in said first storage area in the first access method; and

reading the fixed data corresponding to the changing data in the second access method from said second storage area.

10 12. A data managing method of accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which contents data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the method comprising:

15 storing retrieval data related to the contents data in said first storage area in the first access method; and

reading the contents data corresponding to the retrieval data from said second storage area in the second access method.

20 13. A data managing method of accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which detailed data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the data managing comprising:

25 storing in said first storage area index data, related to the detailed data, in the first access method ; and

reading the detailed data corresponding to the index data from said

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second storage area in the second access method.

14. A data managing method of accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which uncompressed high-
5 definition data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the data managing comprising:

storing in said first storage area compressed data, related to the high-definition data, in the first access method; and

10 reading the high-definition data corresponding to the compressed data from said second storage area in the second access method.

15. A data managing method of accessing a recording medium that comprises a first storage area in which information is stored in a first access method and a second storage area in which high-definition image
15 data is stored in a second access method different from the first access method, the data managing comprising:

storing in said first storage area thumbnail data related to the high-definition image data and having a reduced amount of information in the first access method; and

20 reading the high-definition image data corresponding to the thumbnail data from said second storage area in the second access method.

16. The data managing method according to claim 11, wherein said first storage area comprises a static storage area and said second
25 storage area comprises a dynamic storage area.

17. A data reading apparatus for reading data from an optical

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recording medium of a card shape having free and pay contents data stored in a first and a second storage area thereof, respectively, said apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading the free and pay contents data;

5 inhibiting means for inhibiting said reading means from reading the pay contents data; and

permitting means for permitting said reading means to read the pay contents data in accordance with predetermined procedures.

10 18. The data reading apparatus according to claim 17, comprising connecting means for connecting the recording medium to a server system of a center via the Internet.

15 19. An information managing system comprising an optical recording medium of a card shape having free and pay contents data stored in a first and a second storage area thereof, respectively, and a reader for reading the contents data from the recording medium, wherein one of the recording medium and the reader comprises:

20 means for permitting said reader to read the free contents data from the medium and for inhibiting said reader from reading the pay contents data from the medium; and

permitting means for permitting said reader to read the pay contents data in accordance with predetermined procedures.

25 20. The information managing system according to claim 19, wherein said inhibiting means is provided in said storage medium.

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21. The information managing system according to claim 19,
wherein said inhibiting means is provided in said reader.

22. The information managing system according to claim 19,
5 wherein the recording medium comprises switching means for switching
the free contents data to the pay contents data in accordance with the
predetermined procedures.

23. The information managing system according to claim 19,
10 wherein said reader comprises connecting means for connecting the
recording medium to a server system via the Internet.

24. The information managing system according to claim 19,
wherein the recording medium further comprises an electronic storage area.

25. The information managing system according to claim 24,
15 wherein said electronic storage area comprises said permitting means.

26. An information managing system comprising an optical
20 recording medium of a card shape having free and pay contents data stored
in a first and a second storage area thereof, respectively, a reader for
reading the contents data from the recording medium, and a server system
on the Internet to which the reader is connectable, the server system being
controlled by a center on the Internet, wherein one of the recording medium
25 and the reader comprises:

means for permitting said reader to read the free contents data and
for inhibiting said reader from reading the pay contents data; and

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permitting means for permitting said reader to read the pay contents data in accordance with predetermined procedures.

27. The information managing system according to claim 26,
5 wherein said inhibiting means is provided in said server system.

28. The information managing system according to claim 26,
wherein said procedures comprise payment of a required charge to the center.

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29. The information managing system according to claim 26,
wherein said procedures comprise inputting authentication data from said reader to said server system.

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30. A method of reading data from an optical recording medium of a card shape having stored free and pay contents data in a first and a second storage area thereof, respectively, the method comprising the steps of:

inhibiting reading means, capable of reading the free and pay contents data, from reading the pay contents data; and

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permitting the reading means to read the pay contents data in accordance with predetermined procedures.

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